

the United States, Goodwill is considered one of the top five most valuable and recognized nonprofit brands and is the second-largest nonprofit organization. Pennsylvania alone is served by 10 Goodwill Industries service areas; and Goodwill has solid ties to the communities it services through partnerships with local businesses, schools, and human service agencies, helping individuals overcome life challenges through opportunity, education, training, and employment.

I often say that I wear many hats during my day-to-day routine: father, husband, community member, caregiver, legislator, and so on. I am sure most of you would agree with the fact that the different roles that you fulfill in your life provide you with diverse perspectives and help shape your outlook on what is most important. My experiences have solidified my belief in the value of community. Whether we are talking about our national economy, the quality of our health care, or closing the skills gap, we can agree that the most successful efforts start in our local communities from the ground up.

Those who donate to Goodwill can have peace of mind that their money is going to the right place, since 90 cents of every dollar is directed toward its mission and its services. These services were provided to nearly 1,200 people across the north central region in Pennsylvania in 2013, providing an immeasurable benefit to our region.

The 50th anniversary celebration is a great time to reflect on all of the growth that Goodwill Industries of North Central has achieved as a team and to continue to prepare your plans for the future. I commend them for all their remarkable accomplishments, and I look forward to the great things that are to come.

DEFAULT PREVENTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in some horror and alarm over the so-called Default Prevention Act that this Chamber will be considering. Of all the Orwellian names that the House comes up with for legislation, this one is truly deserving of an award by the Ministry of Truth.

For those of you at home who have not been following the swirling, mad-cap antics around the House of Representatives lately, let me assure you that the Default Prevention Act in no way prevents a default. The Default Prevention Act, in fact, specifies that two categories of people get paid in the event that the Congress does not raise the debt ceiling. It specifies that private bondholders of U.S. Treasuries will get paid interest, and it specifies that Social Security recipients will be held harmless. They will get paid.

Now, at some level, maybe that sounds attractive; but everybody else

that is expecting a check or a salary or some form of repayment by the United States Government, they are out of luck.

1.4 million Active-Duty troops, they are not in this bill as somebody who gets paid if the government doesn't raise the debt ceiling. Four million disabled veterans are out of luck under this bill. One million doctors who today are providing Medicare services to our senior citizens are out of luck. Sorry. You didn't make it into the Default Prevention Act cooked up by the Republican majority.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bill that stunningly and explicitly defines for the world, tells everybody exactly how the U.S. Government intends to be a deadbeat, who we are going to pay and who we are not going to pay, and here is how we are going to be a deadbeat.

Why would you do that? What possible sense does that make?

There are all kinds of reasons why this is a terrible piece of legislation, but let me just focus on two.

Number one, I hear constantly from my friends on the Republican side of the aisle that everything creates winners and losers: the Affordable Care Act, the Ex-Im Bank, you name it. Dodd-Frank creates winners and losers. This bill very explicitly creates winners: Social Security recipients and bondholders.

By the way, who are these bondholders? Who holds United States Treasury debt? Do you?

I will tell you who holds most of it: China. China does. This is why, on the Democratic side of the aisle, we have called this bill the Pay China First Act, which is actually a much better description of what this act actually does than the Default Prevention Act.

More seriously, Mr. Speaker, I worked in the capital markets for a long time. There is no way to gracefully default on your debt, to say, "Oh, we will pay interest; we will pay Social Security. But we are not going to pay soldiers; we are not going to pay Medicare." Once you tell the world that we do not intend to abide by our obligations, the world loses its faith in the United States.

Folks, this debt ceiling is a fiction. It is an absurdist fiction. What do we get from it? The debt ceiling has never prevented the accumulation of debt. That happens because this Chamber and the United States Congress chooses to spend more money than it chooses to tax and bring in.

There are really only two ways to reduce the deficit and the debt: you can tax more, which nobody likes to do; or you can spend less, which it turns out that nobody really wants to do either because, of course, everybody in this Chamber has the things that they want to spend their money on, but the other guy's stuff, well, that we are going to cut.

So we have the ultimate hypocrisy of saying we are going to tax too little and spend too much, create a deficit,

but then we are going to vote on this magical thing called the debt ceiling that will allow us to say "I am not raising the debt ceiling because I oppose spending." It is absurd. And you know what? It leads to legislation like this.

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Mr. Speaker, we have seen this movie before. Pretty soon in the next couple of days, grown men and women in this Chamber are going to talk about maybe the Treasury minting a high-denomination platinum coin to solve this problem, as though we were characters in some kind of "Harry Potter" movie instead of responsible legislators.

This needs to stop, Mr. Speaker. My constituents are sick and tired of the House of Representatives acting in this fashion: ideological and absurd. My constituents want us to come together to deal with the real problems facing America: of improving the economy, of making education accessible. But, no, we are going to spend some time on this absurdly named Default Prevention Act.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this thing and move on to more serious issues.

OUR NATION'S DEBT TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, in a mere 14 days, America will hit the limit for our national debt; but rather than working with Congress to address the causes of our debt, President Obama is demanding we dump more debt on our kids and grandkids.

President Obama is very different from Senator Obama. Here is a photo of Senator Obama speaking on the Senate floor, and here is what he said on our national debt on the Senate floor on March 16, 2006:

"The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the U.S. Government can't pay its own bills. It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance our government's reckless fiscal policies.

"Over the past 5 years, our Federal debt has increased by \$3.5 trillion to \$8.6 trillion. That is 'trillion' with a 'T.' That is money that we have borrowed from the Social Security trust fund, borrowed from China and Japan, borrowed from American taxpayers.

"Numbers that large are sometimes hard to understand. Some people may wonder why they matter. Here is why: This year the Federal Government will spend \$220 billion on interest."

The \$8.6 trillion that horrified Senator Obama in 2006 has exploded to \$18.1 trillion on President Obama's watch. "That is 'trillion' with a 'T,'" to quote Senator Obama.

Senator Obama later explained:

"Every dollar we pay in interest is a dollar that is not going to investment

in America's priorities. Instead, interest payments are a significant tax on all Americans, a debt tax that Washington doesn't want to talk about."

Senator Obama abhorred a debt tax that Washington didn't want to talk about, and now he refuses to talk about his new debt tax.

Senator Obama closed by saying:

"Increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that 'the buck stops here.' Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better. I, therefore, intend to oppose the effort to increase America's debt limit."

If Senator Obama thought that a national debt of \$8.6 trillion with a T is a "failure of leadership," what has changed? Why is President Obama okay with a new debt tax of over \$20 trillion, trillion with a T?

Clearly, President Obama has forgotten Senator Obama's words, but the American people remember. On their behalf and on behalf of all young Americans who will be crushed by this new debt, I ask President Obama to decrease our debt by working with Congress to stop his new debt tax.

DONALD TRUMP HOSTING "SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, did you hear that "Saturday Night Live" has invited Donald Trump to host the show in November? Now, let me get the exact quote from July when Donald Trump launched his "make America hate again" campaign. He said:

"When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best . . . They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing us those problems. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

"They're sending us not the right people. It's coming from more than Mexico. It's coming from all over South and Latin America, and it's coming probably from the Middle East."

While much of what Donald Trump says is hilarious, intentionally or otherwise, bald-faced racism for political gain isn't funny. His statements should disqualify him from being able to take the stage in any entertainment venue and speak to the American people as if what he said was no big deal.

It is not that I don't get the joke—I haven't been kidnapped by the politically correct police—but when public figures cross certain lines, they should lose their privileges to host TV shows, at least until they have apologized for their unacceptable behavior. To put Donald Trump on the air in America's

living rooms on the signature comedy show of one of the most important national networks after saying that Mexicans are rapists, drug dealers, and criminals, that is a corporate blunder too big to be ignored.

What happened, NBC and Comcast? Within a couple of weeks after Trump launched those racist bombs, you dumped Trump. You dumped his TV show on your network. You dumped his pageants and other ventures on NBC and Universal networks like Telemundo.

In July, NBC said: "Due to the recent derogatory statements by Donald Trump regarding immigrants, NBCUniversal is ending its business relationship with Mr. Trump."

NBC said: "Respect and dignity for all people are cornerstones of our values."

NBC, you were not alone in dumping Trump. Macy's Department Stores dumped Trump's clothing line. Serta dumped Trump's mattresses, chef Jose Andres pulled his new restaurant from a Trump hotel, and Univision dumped a Trump pageant. Even NASCAR and ESPN dumped Trump. Corporate America stepped up to the plate and dumped Trump, and we all applauded.

Let's be clear: the goodwill that corporate America earned from dumping Trump didn't just come from the Mexican-American community. No, when Trump says Mexicans are murderers, rapists, and drug dealers, Puerto Rico knows he is talking about us, too, and Colombians and Salvadorans, and pretty much everyone in the Latino community.

Look, Americans aren't very good at telling us apart; so when we are under attack by a tycoon running for the Republican Presidential nomination, we can't tell us apart either. We are all family.

What happened, Comcast, Universal, and NBC? Now, 3 months later, have Donald Trump's words been expunged? Did I miss an apology on one of his almost nightly television appearances? Has he confessed his racist and hateful call to action?

Well, NBC installing Trump as SNL host may be good for ratings, but it is a bigger deal than a cameo or being a guest on "The Tonight Show." I am calling you out.

If Donald Trump had said gays and lesbians were murderers and raping Americans, would he get to host a show? It is every bit as much a fiction and a lie.

Donald Trump has said some pretty awful things about women individually and collectively. But what if he said most women were criminals? Would the writers be thinking up sketches for Trump if he had slandered an entire gender rather than an entire ethnic group?

Trump says he wants to do away with the part of the Constitution that allowed freed slaves, freed African American slaves to be treated fully as American citizens. Yes, Trump thinks we do

not need the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

But what if he said that Black people were murderers, rapists, drug dealers? Would you still pitch skits with Donald Trump and some lighthearted banter?

What if all the Latino cast members all walked off the job at "Saturday Night Live"? Oh, wait, you don't have any Latino cast members.

I do seem to remember Comcast spending a lot of time on Capitol Hill when they had a merger deal with Time Warner and they wanted support from Members of Congress. Comcast said Latinos were so important to them, and they had plans to do this and that and the other thing to support the Latino and immigrant community.

What happened? The merger didn't go through, so you no longer feel the sense of corporate responsibility to the 55 million Latinos that live in the USA? Giving free airtime to people who insult and malign them is now part of your business model?

I just want to say one last thing to producer Lorne Michaels. I wonder if he had said that Canadians were rapists, murderers, and drug dealers, would you be inviting him on SNL?

Mr. Speaker, I place in the RECORD a letter that I sent NBC Comcast yesterday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 20, 2015.

Mr. BRIAN ROBERTS,
Chairman/President/CEO, Comcast Corp.,
Philadelphia, PA.

Mr. STEPHEN B. BURKE,
President/CEO, NBCUniversal,
New York, NY.

DEAR MESSRS. ROBERTS AND BURKE: Having Donald Trump as a guest on every news and entertainment program is one thing, but allowing him to host Saturday Night Live is another. It is a level of endorsement that says to America that every hateful and racist thing Donald Trump has said since the moment he launched his campaign is acceptable and no big deal.

Well, it is a big deal. He said Mexicans are rapists, criminals and drug-dealers, and to be clear, when he said Mexicans are those things, he was tarring all Latinos and all immigrants. His exact words were, "They're sending us not the right people. It's coming from more than Mexico. It's coming from all over South and Latin America, and it's coming probably from the Middle East."

The reaction in July from NBC was swift and clear: "Due to the recent derogatory statements by Donald Trump regarding immigrants, NBCUniversal is ending its business relationship with Mr. Trump." And NBC said, "Respect and dignity for all people are cornerstones of our values."

Serta, Macy's, NASCAR, Univision, and ESPN were among the others that also acted to dump Trump.

Three months later, because he is a ratings and comedy bonanza, Lorne Michaels and Saturday Night Live (SNL) are giving the Trump campaign 90 minutes of free network airtime.

I think I speak for a lot of Americans, especially immigrant Americans and Latino Americans, when I say that if SNL is allowed to proceed, it would be a huge corporate blunder.

When Comcast sought a merger with Time Warner, I and a lot of my Congressional Hispanic Caucus colleagues heard from you